## Message Text

## CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-10 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 DOE-15 SOE-02 IO-13 /105 W

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O 180415Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3016
INFO AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

CONFIDENTIAL ANKARA 5938

USEEC, USOECD

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: EFIN, IMF, TU

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS THAT TURKEY WILL TIE LIRA TO SDR

REF: ANKARA 5714

1. YALCIN DOGAN, CUMHURIYET REPORTER WITH UNUSUALLY GOOD CONNECTIONS AT MINISTRY OF FINANCE, REPORTED AUGUST 18, THAT FINANCE MINISTER ZIYA MUEZZINOGLU WILL PROPOSE TO IMF IN WASHINGTON THAT TURKISH LIRA, AS DOGAN DESCRIBED IT, FLOAT WITHIN A BAND AROUND IMF'S SPECIAL DRAWING RIGHT (SDR). ARTICLE SAID THAT A COMMUNIQUE WILL BE PUBLISHED IN OFFICIAL GAZETTE IN NEXT FEW DAYS ANNOUNCING THE LIMITED FLOAT AND THE DISENGAGEMENT OF THE LIRA FROM THE DOLLAR TO WHICH IT HAS BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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PEGGED SINCE THE BRETTON WOODS AGREEMENT. MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM LIMITS WILL BE ESTABLISHED FOR THE VALUE OF THE LIRA AGAINST THE SDR. EMBASSY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM THIS STORY.

2. COMMENT. IF THE ACCOUNT IS TRUE, IT COULD MEAN THAT MR. MUEZZINOGLU HAS GONE TO THE IMF WITH A PROPOSAL THAT HE

HOPES WILL BREAK THE DEADLOCK BETWEEN THE FUND AND THE GOT. TURKS PERCEIVE THE MAJOR OBSTACLE TO DISBURSEMENT OF THE SECOND TRANCHE AS THE ISSUE OF DEVALUATION, ACCORDING TO AYSEL OYMEN, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE TREASURY FOR FOREIGN FINANCING (REFTEL). SHE TOLD EMBOFFS THAT IMF HAD MADE A DEEP DEVALUATION A PRECONDITION OF A SECOND TRANCHE DRAWING.

3. IMF, HOWEVER, HAS HAD OTHER COMPLAINTS BEYOND THE EXCHANGE RATE TO MAKE ABOUT TURKISH ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE. EVEN IF MUEZZINOGLU PRESENTS A SATISFACTORY EXCHANGE PROPOSAL INCORPORATING A DEVALUATION OF THE DEPTH REQUIRED BY THE IMF, THE FUND MAY STILL FEEL THAT THE EXISTING STANDBY AGREEMENT, IN THE LIGHT OF DETERIORATION THAT HAS OCCURRED SINCE IT WAS MADE, HAS BECOME OBSOLETE AND REQUIRES RENEGOTIATION. MUEZZINOGLU MAY HAVE GONE TO WASHINGTON IN THE EXPECTATION THAT HE COULD BUY THE SECOND TRANCHE WITH AN EXCHANGE PROPOSAL ALONE. HE MAY BE DISAPPOINTED. DILLON

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